

Foreperson's Role

Under our law, the first juror selected is known as the foreperson. During deliberations, the foreperson's opinion and vote are not entitled to any more importance than that of any other juror.

[What we ask the foreperson to do during deliberations is to sign any written note that the jury sends to the court. The foreperson does not have to write the note or agree with its contents. The foreperson's signature only indicates that the writing comes from the jury.]

[The foreperson may also chair the jury's discussions during deliberations.]

When the jury has reached a verdict, guilty or not guilty, the entire jury will be asked to come into court. The foreperson will be asked whether the jury has reached a verdict. If the foreperson says yes, he/she will then be asked what the verdict is for the/each charged crime [considered in accordance with my instructions].

After that, the entire jury will be asked whether that is their verdict and will answer yes or no.

Finally, upon the request of a party, each juror will be asked individually whether the announced verdict is the verdict of that juror, and then, upon being asked, each juror will answer yes or no.